THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Presently two Inter-State water disputes viz. Ravi Beas Water Disputes and Cauvery Water Disputes are under adjudication in the Tribunals set up by the Government ot India under the Inter State Water Disputes Act, 1956. Ravi Beas Waters Tribunal has given a report on 30.1.87. Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has given an Interim order on 25.6.1991. Awards of their respective Tribunals are awaited.

It is not possible to indicate the time-frame in this regard.

Survey over Majuli Island

449. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have conducted any survey over the Majuli Island, the biggest Island of the world to save from erosion;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(d) the reaction of the Government in this regard and the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The Brahmaputra Board has conducted survey of the Majuli Island on Brahmaputra and has prepared a report in December 1997 on its flood protection measures. The report recommended taking up anti-erosion schemes, repair and strengthening of dykes and roads, construction of spurs and other permeable structures.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The measures recommended in the report are to be implemented by the Government of Assam from the funds allocated to the States under Flood Control Sector by the Planning Commission, and from the Central Assistance given to the Government of Assam every year by the Centre.

Water scarcity

450. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased o state:

(a) whether Government are aware that our country will be worst hit by water scarcity according to Worldwatch interview;

(b) whether this will result in steep cutbacks in supply of irrigation water; and

(c) if so, how it is going to affect the harvest during the next five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Although the water availability in the country remains more or less fixed according to the natural hydrologic cycle, the per capita water availability is reducing progressively owing to increasing population, industrialisation and urbanisation. In 1955 per capita water availability was 5300 Cu.m which has come down to 2200 Cu.m in 1998 and by 2025 the availability will be only 1500 Cu.m at national average. According to the United Nations' criteria any situation of water availability less then 1000 Cu.m per capita is considered as scarcity condition. Therefore, even at the end of 2025 A.D. India is not likely to face water scarcity situation at national level though uneven water availability may cause local water scarcity at some places.

(b) The Government has initiated various measures through Command Area Development Programmes and